

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 06260

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE

REF: STATE 99267; MANILA 6164

1. FATHER REUTER CALLED ON CHARGE APRIL 19 TO CONVEY AND ENDORSE PROPOSAL FROM DENNIS MURPHY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF OFFICE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, OF THE FEDERATION OF ASIAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE, THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES MEET WITH A NUMBER OF AMERICANS INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES TO DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HERE.

2. REUTER, HIMSELF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS, AND A PERSON OF THE HIGHEST INTEGRITY AS WELL AS DISCRETION AND SOPHISTICATION OCCUPIES A UNIQUE POSITION IN THE PHILIPPINES OF SPIRITUAL ADVISOR TO THE ELITE (HE HAS BEEN CONFESSOR TO MRS. MARCOS AND OFFICIATED AT THE WEDDING OF DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE'S DAUGHTER APRIL 17), AND OF DEDICATED NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE EPISCOPAL COMMISSION ON MASS MEDIA.

3. REUTER SAID THAT MURPHY, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND FORMER JESUIT PRIEST, IS SOUND AND RELIABLE. HIS BOSS IN TURN IS
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BISHOP JULIO XAVIER LABAYAN, OCD, CARMELITE, WHO AS HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SPEAKS FOR ALL CATHOLICS IN ASIA ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. BISHOP LABAYAN, A PHILIPPINE CITIZEN, WOULD NOT PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED MEETING, REUTER SAID, SINCE IT WAS THOUGHT MORE POLITIC FOR THAT OCCASION TO BE LIMITED TO AMERICAN CITIZENS, ABOUT SIX IN NUMBER, MEETING WITH THEIR VICE PRESI-

DENT. FATHER REUTER ADDED THAT THE GROUP WOULD BE HAPPY TO PRESENT A PROPOSED AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION.

4. COMMENT: PENDING GUIDANCE ANTICIPATED REF A PARA 3, WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO MEETING WITH PHILIPPINE REPEAT PHILIPPINE MEMBERS OF CHURCH AND/OR OPPOSITION. BELIEVE THIS COULD BEST BE STRUCTURED WITHIN HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT TO INCLUDE INDEPENDENTS, OPPOSITION AND CHURCH TOGETHER IF ONLY ONE MEETING FEASIBLE. HOWEVER, IF SECOND MEETING WERE CONTEMPLATED, WE BELIEVE CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN A CALL UPON CARDINAL SIN AT HIS PALACE (REF B) OR, ALTERNATIVELY, THE DISCUSSION PROPOSED ABOVE BY FATHER REUTER. STULL

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